

REMARKS

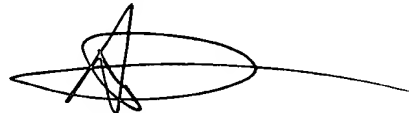
The amendments to the claims are being made to eliminate multiple dependencies and to reduce the additional claim fees.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached version is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By



Allen C. Yun
Registration No. 37,971

ACY:pr
624 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 20-22, 25, 30, 32-37, and 41 have been amended as follows below.

20(Once-amended). A vector comprising the nucleotide sequence according to ~~any one of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16-19~~ claim 2.

21(Once-amended). Transformed cells having the nucleotide sequence according to claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16-19~~ in an expressible state.

22(Once-amended). A process for producing a protein which comprises culturing cells transformed with the nucleotide sequence according to claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2, 6, 8 and 17,~~ and collecting hBSSP6 produced.

25(Once-amended). The process according to ~~any one of claims 22-24~~ claim 22, wherein the cells are *E. coli* cells, animal cells or insect cells.

30(Once-amended). An antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof.

32(Once-amended). A process for producing a monoclonal antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof which comprises administering the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof to a warm-blooded animal other than a human

being, selecting the animal whose antibody titer is recognized, collecting its spleen or lymph node, fusing the antibody producing cells contained therein with myeloma cells to prepare a monoclonal antibody producing hybridoma.

33(Once-amended). A method for determining the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof in a specimen which is based on immunological binding of an antibody against the protein or a fragment thereof to the protein or a fragment thereof.

34(Once-amended). A method for determining BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in a specimen which comprises reacting a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 5, 7, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof and a labeled antibody with BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in the specimen to detect a sandwich complex produced.

35(Once-amended). A method for determining BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in a specimen which comprises reacting a monoclonal antibody or a polyclonal antibody against the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 5, 7, 13 and 15~~ claim 1 or a fragment thereof with labeled BSSP6 and BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in the specimen competitively to detect an amount of BSSP6 or a fragment thereof in the specimen based on an amount of the labeled BSSP6 reacted with the antibody.

36(Once-amended). The method according to ~~any one of claims 33-35~~ claim 33, wherein the specimen is a body fluid.

37(Once-amended). A diagnostic marker for diseases in tissues comprising the protein according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15~~ claim 1, or a fragment thereof.

41(Once-amended). The marker according to claim ~~27~~ 37 to be used for diagnosis of prostatic hypertrophy in prostate.